

Although the monsoon brings its challenges, the weather this July occasionally gave way to clearer skies, allowing the DAS team to conduct five successful camps across Darjeeling. The team made the most of every available window, relying on weather forecasts to schedule camps and reach communities in need.

Follow-up camps

They also play an important role in spreading awareness among community members, emphasising the importance of timely rabies vaccination, responsible pet ownership, the right age for sterilisation, and the need to avoid harmful practices like using human contraceptive injections, which are still being used in some areas.

The DAS Team with the Bijanbari MVU Team

Camp at Relling, Bijanbari

On the 8th of July, the DAS team returned to Relling, Bijanbari for a second camp. As with the previous visit, the camp was held in the presence of Dr. Sangay, Veterinary Officer with the Mobile Veterinary Unit in Bijanbari, who has been a supportive collaborator.





DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER

HELPING THOSE IN NEED



This month, five camps were conducted, some of which were follow-up visits to areas where camps had been held earlier for the welfare of community dogs. These follow-up camps are

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especially useful in managing the street dog population and conducting both pre- and postassessments of the dogs.

JULY 2025

MONTHLY REPORT

CAMPATRELLING, BIJANBARI

“It was an encouraging experience for the team to witness a gradual shift in awareness among local dog owners,” said Dr. Shivani. During last year’s camp in the same area, the team came across several dogs suffering from pyometra and complications caused by the use of human contraceptive injections for birth control. This year, however, no such cases were observed, and none of the dogs brought in for sterilisation showed signs of such harmful practices.

This camp stood as a quiet but strong example of how ongoing ABC awareness can make a meaningful difference in the lives of animals, while also encouraging a more compassionate and informed approach to community care.



Dr. Regal, assisted by Mr. Naren during camp ABC

Camps at Bijanbari Bazar, Mangpoo, Goke, and Kurseong

Following the camp at Relling, the DAS team conducted another series of camps—at Bijanbari Bazar on the 9th of July, Mangpoo on the 15th, Goke on the 17th, and Kurseong on the 25th.

The camp at Mangpoo was conducted in collaboration with Mrs. Lata Rai, an active member of a local Self Help Group and a dedicated animal lover. She had previously supported the DAS team during last year's ABC camp in the same area. With a strong understanding of the importance of ABC, Mrs. Rai has shown consistent commitment to addressing the issue of dog abandonment—especially of female dogs in nearby forested areas, a practice that continues to be a concern.

Over the years, she has worked closely with DAS, helping organise ABC-ARV camps with strong community participation. Her ongoing efforts and dedication have been instrumental in spreading awareness and encouraging a more responsible and compassionate attitude toward animals in her community.

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Addressing the ongoing need, the DAS team remains committed to responding whenever possible. On the 25th of July, Dr. Regal and the team from DAS travelled to Kurseong to carry out the ABC programme. The camp was organised by Dr. Sudenla, the Veterinary Officer at the Govt. Modern Veterinary Clinic in Kurseong. During the camp, 14 dogs and 2 cats were sterilised.



Owners bringing their dogs for ABC

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GOKE FOLLOW-UP CAMP – 17 JULY 2025

A follow-up camp was organised at Karmatar, Goke, where 16 dogs were sterilised by Dr. Shivani and her team. Goke has remained responsive and cooperative, reaching out whenever assistance is needed.

ABC-ARV CAMP AT KURSEONG – 25 JULY 2025

Kurseong, though a neighbouring town, does not yet have an established ABC facility. Over the years, the Darjeeling Animal Shelter team has extended support to community dogs in Kurseong, and in the past, Kalimpong Animal Shelter has also conducted camps there to help manage the dog population.



Pics - Camp at Goke



Such continued support from DAS has proved helpful for Kurseong's community animals.



In Pic-The DAS Team with Dr.Sudenla at Kurseong

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The team has come across several cases this month involving accidents, transmissible venereal tumours (TVT), and skin issues. In every rescue, the team responds promptly, ensuring that injured or unwell dogs are brought to DAS for treatment.

Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter follows a clear approach in line with the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) guidelines: every dog is released back to its original location after recovery, and no dog is relocated. Only in rare and exceptional cases do

dogs remain at the Shelter-particularly when they have no one to care for them and are at risk if returned to the streets, such as those living with three legs or those who have faced cruelty.

MONTHLY REPORT

IN-HOUSE ABC AT DAS

Alongside the camps, the In-House ABC programme at DAS also continued. Most of the street dogs brought in for sterilisation were caught from the town centre and surrounding areas such as Tungsung and Ghoom. These dogs were housed at the Shelter for three days and, following post-operative care, were released back to their familiar locations.



Dog being released post ABC

RESCUE



APCRICON 2025 REPORT

Dr. Shivani attended the 25th Annual National Conference of the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI), held from 11th to 13th July 2025 at the Green Park Hotel, Chennai. The event was organised by the Department of Community Medicine, Chettinad Hospital & Research Institute (CHRI), Chettinad Academy of Research & Education (CARE), Kelambakkam, Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with Madras Veterinary College, Vepery, Chennai.



Dr.shivani presenting on KAP



Received certificate for Oral & Poster Presentation

Dr. Shivani represented Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter and presented a paper at the conference: "Knowledge of Rabies in Different Groups of Students – A Comparative Study" and "KAP of Community, Vets and Medics Collated and Analyzed".

- The conference focused on addressing dog-mediated rabies with the theme “Zero by 2030: Accelerating One Health Approach”. The pre-conference theme was “Roadmap to Combat Rabies by 2030: Current Diagnostic & Control Strategies.”

With the judges at APCRIPON Dr.

Shivani shared:

“This conference was graced by eminent professionals working in the field of rabies prevention and control—from WHO, WOAAH, NCDC, and Mission Rabies—along with leading experts from across India and abroad, including:

- Dr. ● Bernadette Abela-Ridder – Team Leader, NTD, NZD, WHO, Geneva
- Dr. ● Kinzang Dukpa – Regional One Health Coordinator, WOAAH Regional Representation for Asia and Pacific, Tokyo, Japan
- Dr. ● Shrikrishna Isloor – Professor & Head, Department of Veterinary Microbiology; Lab Director, KVAFSU-CVA Rabies Diagnostic, Hebbal, Bengaluru
- Dr. M. ● K. Sudarshan – Founder President & Mentor, APCRI; Principal Assessor, NABH, Delhi; Chairman, IECs of BMC & RI, Fortis Hospitals & others, Bangalore
- Dr. ● Simmi Tiwari – Joint Director & Head, Centre for One Health, NCDC, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, Delhi
- Joint ● Dr. (Mrs.) Monil Singhai – Director, NCDC, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, Delhi.”

Notably, representatives from WVS/Mission Rabies were also present:

- Dr. ● Murugan Appupillai – India Director of Education, Mission Rabies, Worldwide Veterinary Services, Goa
- Dr. ● Balaji Chandrashekhar – Director of Operations, Mission Rabies India
- Dr. ● Mihir Mazgaonkar – Mission Rabies North-East India Lead



CLINICAL CASES

The DAS clinic attended to 521 cases in July. These included parvovirus cases, accident injuries, respiratory illnesses, seasonal conditions, and routine vaccination and consultations. The DAS team also provided home treatment to four pigs.

X-RAY CONDUCTED AT DAS IN JUNE 2025



The DAS team was able to perform X-rays on only three dogs this month due to a technical fault in the X-ray machine, which is scheduled for repair by the technician.

Among the three cases examined by Dr. Shivani, one involved a senior dog from Ghoom Monastery, over 10 years old, presenting with a progressively growing mass on its back.

The growth had been visible for the past eight months and had significantly increased in size, prompting his community caretakers to bring him to DAS for further diagnosis and treatment. With the help of the X-ray, Dr. Shivani located the tumour in the dorso-thoraco-lumbar region.

Blood tests came back normal, and the tumour was surgically removed with assistance from Dr. Regal. The dog, fondly known as Brownie, is now recovering well at DAS.

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BROWNIE POST-SURGERY WITH HER COMMUNITY CARETAKERS

His devoted caretakers continue to visit him every weekend with home-cooked meals, looking forward to his full recovery and return to his familiar surroundings. They said Brownie is missed not only by the community but also by his best furry friend, Kanchi, who waits eagerly for him to come home.

MONTHLYREPORT

RABIESPROJECTDEVELOPMENTS

In July, the Rabies Project Manager met with various key stakeholders from Darjeeling and Kalimpong to ensure smooth functioning and effective collaboration for the rabies control project in the Hills under the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). The rabies project, an initiative of Mission Rabies in collaboration with Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter, focuses on rabies prevention through educational awareness programmes and field response.

As part of this effort, awareness sessions on rabies prevention are being conducted in schools, led by the Education Officer in Darjeeling, and a similar programme has now been initiated in Kalimpong. For the first time, a dedicated rabies hotline number will be introduced in Kalimpong. This will be managed by Biraj, the Integrated Bite Case Management Officer based in Kalimpong.

The rabies Programme Manager, Mr. Ashwin met with the GTA Chief, Mr. Anit Thapa, and the Executive Sabhasad of Animal Husbandry in Darjeeling this month to seek official permission and strengthen collaboration for the rabies programme, working towards a safer future for both people and animals. Similarly, Mr. Ashwin met with Mr. Ravi Pradhan, Chairman of Kalimpong Municipality, and Dr. Zimba, the Municipal Health Officer. The Municipality has agreed to collaborate on the rabies programme moving forward.



L-R -With the GTA chief, Mr. Anit Thapa and Executive Savasad of Animal Husbandry



Rabies Prg. Manager with the Municipality chairman, Shri Ravi Pradhan and Health Officer, Dr. Zimba

Internship Programme

Darjeeling Animal Shelter received a request from the Principal of Southfield College, Darjeeling, to host an internship programme for students enrolled in the four-year undergraduate course, in line with NEP guidelines. As per the new academic framework, it is now mandatory for students to complete a 60-hour internship with organisations engaged in work that benefits people or animals

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INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Accordingly, ten students have been enrolled in the internship programme at DAS. Since it wasn't possible to take all students at once, they were divided into two groups. The first batch of five students has completed their 10-day internship, fulfilling the 60-hour requirement, while the second batch is currently volunteering at the Shelter.



Volunteers engaging in Shelter activities



Volunteers with the DAS Team

Under the guidance of Dr. Shivani, the interns have gained hands-on experience in dog handling, learned about rabies prevention, the importance of Animal Birth Control (ABC), and coexistence. They also helped fold sterile gauze, groom dogs, clean food bowls for both dogs and cats, and were taught how to maintain hygiene for the animals.

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